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ABSTRACT

This report is the fifth in a series that constitutes a comprehensive evaluation of the public library statistics program carried out annually by the Federal State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS). The evaluation aims to revise and promote the FSCS classification structure that divides library organizations into municipal, school district, county, regional, and many other categories. This report, in particular, provides reference information about the legal structure and organization of public libraries within the 50 states and the District of Columbia. After giving an overview of the FSCS categories and difficulties arising from a lack of standardized application, the report proceeds alphabetically state by state listing what categories of libraries can lawfully be established in that state and discussing any special circumstances. (BEW)

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Public Library Structure and Organization in the United States

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Technical Report **March 1996**

Public Library Structure and Organization in the United States

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FOREWORD

This report was prepared for the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) by the Governments Division of the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The principal author was Stephen Owens of the Governments Division. This report is the fifth in a series that constitutes a comprehensive evaluation of the public library statistics program carried out annually by the Federal State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (the FSCS). The FSCS membership consists of the Federal government (through the NCES), the state governments (generally through their respective state library agencies), and representatives from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and the American Library Association.

The purposes of the comprehensive evaluation are several. One goal is to raise specific information collection issues for discussion among the participants in the FSCS and the professional library community in general. Another goal is to serve as a background for revising the FSCS classification structure. This evaluation is also intended to promote standard application of the classification system by survey respondents. This report contributes to the comprehensive evaluation by providing reference information about the legal structure and organization of public libraries within the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Assistance from the many state library agencies, the FSCS liaisons in the states, and representatives from the American Library Association and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science is gratefully acknowledged.

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

The following abbreviations are used frequently throughout this report:

FSCS-Federal State Cooperative System--a formal system whereby the state and federal governments work together to collect public library information and statistics. Established by law, with full participation by the National Center for Education Statistics, state library agencies, and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. The full title is the Federal State Cooperative System for Public Library Data.

FSCS/PLS--Federal State Cooperative System/Public Library Statistics Program--refers to the statistical program or data set of the annual public library census.

NCES--National Center for Education Statistics--the federal agency, within the Department of Education, that is responsible for collecting library statistics on a national scale.

PLS--Public Library Statistics Program--the annual census of public libraries conducted by the Federal State Cooperative System and released by the National Center for Education Statistics. The program for which this evaluation is being done.

INTRODUCTION

There were 8,929 public libraries in the United States, according to the FSCS public library census covering 1993. The FSCS defines a public library as follows:

> ***A public library is established under state enabling laws or regulations to serve the residents of a community, district, or region. A public library is an entity that provides at least the following: 1) an organized collection of printed or other library materials, or a combination thereof; 2) a paid staff to provide and interpret such materials as required to meet the informational, cultural, recreational, an/or educational needs of a clientele; 3) an established schedule in which services of the staff are available to clientele; and 4) the facilities necessary to support such a collection, staff, and schedule.***
>
> *Note: State law determines whether an entity is a public library.*

In this definition, the FSCS explicitly recognizes the importance of defining public libraries in terms of the legal basis that permits their creation and regulates their activities within each state. This report contains a description of the public library structure and organization, as found in the legal authorities (usually statutes) of each state government. Chapter one of this report contains summary information about the number of public libraries in each state. The information was derived from three sources--the 1993 FSCS public library census, individual state library directories, and the 1992 Census of Governments conducted by the Bureau of the Census. Chapter two of this report contains a detailed description of the laws that govern the organization and operation of public libraries throughout the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

It should be noted that this report is confined to public libraries only. It does not cover information about special libraries, academic libraries, school libraries, library networks, and other library-type entities that exist. The two most notable exclusions from this report are state libraries and local government law libraries, for which a considerable amount of organizational and regulatory references are found in many of the states' legal codes. State library agencies usually offer library services directly to the public, as do local public libraries. However, they are excluded here because they generally are classified as a category unto themselves for statistical purposes. As such, they are separate from public libraries, which are almost always affiliated with local governments of one type or another. Law, or legal libraries also occur with some frequency among local governments across the Nation. However, they too generally fall outside of the scope of the definition applied to public libraries and are considered instead to be a type of special library.

CHAPTER 1. PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Introduction

Table 1 (p. 10) shows the number of public libraries in the United States, by state, as tabulated from the 1993 FSCS public library statistics program. The count of public libraries has been relatively stable since 1989, when the FSCS first conducted a comprehensive census intended to identify public libraries and measure some of their activities:

Year	Public Library Count
1989	8,968
1990	8,978
1991	9,050
1992	8,946
1993	8,929

The modest fluctuation in count from year-to-year is the result of four factors. One is the creation of new libraries. Second is the dissolution of existing public libraries, primarily among the smaller-sized entities. Third, there also has been some merger activity among public libraries. Fourth, there have been minor definitional changes.

Table 1 also contains statistics on the number of public library facilities, by type, as found in the FSCS census. The term "centrals" refers to the main library facility. It is the single facility in the case of single outlet public libraries, or the facility that serves as the operational center of a multiple-outlet public library and houses its main collection.[1] The term "branches" refers to an auxiliary unit of a public library. A branch must have all of the following: 1) separate quarters; 2) an organized collection of library materials; 3) paid staff; and 4) regularly scheduled hours.

[1]According to the FSCS definitions, public libraries can have zero, one, or multiple central library facilities.

FSCS Classification

The FSCS includes, as part of its annual public library census, a question on the legal basis for each public library reported. The results from that question for 1993 are shown in Table 2, according to the legal basis categories contained in the FSCS. The FSCS legal categories and their respective definitions are as follows:

Municipal Government -- An organized local government authorized in a state's constitution and statutes and established to provide general government for a specific concentration of population in a defined area.

County/Parish -- An organized local government authorized in a state's constitution and statutes and established to provide general government.

Multi-jurisdictional -- An entity operated jointly by two or more units of local government under an intergovernmental agreement which creates a jointly appointed board or similar means of joint governance; to be distinguished from a library which contracts to serve other jurisdictions, and from special library districts.

Native American Tribal Government -- An organized local government authorized and established to provide general government to residents of a Native American reservation; includes native Alaskan villages.

Nonprofit Association or Agency -- An entity privately controlled but meeting the statutory definition of a public library in a given state; includes association libraries.

School District -- An organized local entity providing public elementary, secondary, and/or higher education which, under state law, has sufficient administrative and fiscal autonomy to qualify as a separate government; excludes "dependent public school systems" of county, municipal, township, or state governments.

Special Library District (authority, board, commission) -- This is a district, authority, board or commission authorized by state law to provide library services.

Combined Academic/Public Library -- A library serving as both a college or university library and public library which is governed, funded, and operated by one or more legally constituted administrative jurisdictions.

Combined School Media Center/Public Library -- A library serving as both a school media center and public library which is governed, funded, and operated by one or more legally constituted administrative jurisdictions.

Other -- all other public libraries.

These categories and definitions represent the classification taxonomy applied to the FSCS public library census. They serve an important function in assisting users of the FSCS statistics by establishing a framework from which to view both individual (entity) and aggregate measures of public library service and activity. The statistics are reported to the FSCS, either directly by the state FSCS coordinators or indirectly through them by individual public library respondent units. As such there is a high degree of self-designation in the reporting. This can be further illustrated by some of the examples below.

Most of the public libraries in the FSCS classify themselves as being affiliated with a municipal or county government. (Table 2, page 11) Combined, these represent over two-thirds of the public libraries in the 1993 FSCS census (municipal--55.7 percent and county--12.0 percent). The category with the third largest designation is "nonprofit," with 9.8 percent of the total. Almost one-half of the public libraries so designated were found in New York State (as described later in this chapter).

Geographic Versus Administrative Criteria

The FSCS definitions are actually a mix of geographic and administrative characteristics of libraries. In many cases a library could potentially fall into two or more definitional categories. For example, a special library taxing district could be created to serve a municipality. Assuming that the board of library trustees is elected and has its own taxing authority, an interesting question is raised. Is this a municipal or special district library? A similar question could be raised in the case of nonprofit libraries which serve a particular municipality, county, or school district.

Several inherent conflicts and overlaps can be seen between geographic and administrative organization components within the FSCS classification structure. Some of the FSCS categories are purely geographical in nature. The categories of "Municipal Government" and "County/Parish" are defined purely in the geographic sense. Other FSCS categories are purely administrative in nature. These categories include "Native American Tribal Government," "Nonprofit Association or Agency," "Special Library District," "Combined Academic/Public Library," and "Combined School Media Center/Public Library." The remaining categories "Multi-jurisdictional," "School District," and "Other" encompass both administrative and geographic components.

Conflicts in Definitions

A mix of geographic and administrative components in the FSCS definitions creates categories that are not mutually exclusive, causing difficulties in some cases. An example of this can be found in the state of Massachusetts, which has reported all of its libraries under the "municipal" category. Geographically, this is probably a correct classification since most, if not all, public libraries in this state were created to serve a specific municipality. The problem in this case is related to the way in which libraries in this state are administered. Several entities have popularly elected boards, but many are organized as nonprofit corporations, or have boards appointed by municipal officials.

A library that is controlled by a nonprofit corporation and which serves a specific municipality would fit into the two FSCS categories, namely "Municipal Government" and "Nonprofit Association or Agency." In Massachusetts potentially useful information on organizational structure is being lost because of this conflict.

Another example of potential definitional conflict exists between the categories of "Multi-jurisdictional," and "Special Library District." The FSCS Multi-jurisdictional definition has a geographic component that states the library is operated by two or more units of local government (i.e., municipalities and/or counties). It also has an administrative component that specifies a "jointly appointed board or similar means of joint governance."

The "Special Library District" definition is rather vague. In one sense the definition ("a district, authority, board or commission authorized by state law to provide library services") could be interpreted to apply to any public library in any state, as all public libraries are ultimately authorized by state law. A better wording of this definition might include some indicator that the district, authority, etc. is not affiliated with another unit of local government. This clarification would remove municipal, county, school district and multi-jurisdictional libraries from this definition.

This conflict can be seen in the state of Tennessee, which is reporting its 12 regional libraries in the "Special District" category. These entities, however, also fit into the multi-jurisdictional category. They serve two or more counties and/or municipalities and are governed by boards jointly appointed by the member governments.

Based upon the definition of a "Combined School Media Center/Public Library," it is possible that these entities can be subsets of the "Multi-jurisdictional" category, when they are jointly administered. It is only when these entities are administered by a single government that they are a category unto themselves.

An example of this potential definitional conflict can be found in the state of West Virginia. Several public libraries in the state are jointly operated by a county and a school district government, yet the state has reported no libraries in the "Combined School Media Center/Public Library" category. These are probably reported in the Multi-jurisdictional area, but could also be potentially reported as County libraries (Note: School districts in West Virginia are coterminous with county boundaries). This comparison is also valid for the "Combined Academic/Public Library" category.

The category of "School District" also contains both administrative and geographic components. Potential conflict for this category is found in the state of New York. School district libraries in that state clearly serve the geographic boundaries of a particular school district.

The source of conflict stems from the administrative component. As was the case with Massachusetts, several of these libraries are administered by nonprofit corporations, and this creates a potential overlap. It is interesting that libraries not administered by nonprofit corporations are administered by a separate board elected by the residents of the school district. The school board itself does not administer these libraries, nor does it appoint the members of the library board. In fact, the only function of the school district in the process is to serve as a tax collection agent for the libraries. Library budgets are determined by the voters and day-to-day operations are handled by the elected library board.

If "Special Library District" refers to not being affiliated with another unit of local government, some of the school district libraries in New York might fall into this category in an administrative sense. Additional conflicts could exist with the category of "Combined School Media Center/Public Libraries."

The FSCS Nonprofit category has a potential for overlapping the definitions in <u>all</u> of the other FSCS categories. The definition for the nonprofit category reads "An entity <u>privately</u> controlled but meeting the statutory definition of a public library in a given state...." There are several conflicts. The first stems from the term "statutory definition in a given state". Two entities with identical organizational structures located in different states could be treated quite differently by their respective jurisdictions. As a result, one could be included in the universe while the other could be excluded. This practice undermines the integrity of a "national" standard.

A second conflict stems from the term "privately controlled." There is great diversity in the structure of nonprofit libraries. The methods of selecting the governing bodies for these entities are almost as diverse as the number of entities, themselves. There are libraries of this sort with boards appointed entirely by public officials, boards consisting entirely of public officials serving in an *ex officio* capacity, boards appointed entirely by private organizations, self-perpetuating boards, boards elected by the membership of the library (membership is sometimes defined as any individual possessing a library card), and any and all combinations of the above.

Yet another interpretation of the term "private" can cause confusion in states such as Pennsylvania. The nonprofit libraries may be publicly controlled. The laws in most states allow local governments to form nonprofit corporations to perform any services that the governments themselves may provide. In Pennsylvania, most libraries are organized in this fashion.

One traditionally thinks of a nonprofit or association library as being organized through a gift, will, or bequest. (Around the turn of the century wealthy entrepreneurs such as Andrew Carnegie established hundreds of these libraries, many of which still exist today.) The common thread linking these types of libraries is that they were established by a private individual.

Libraries established by a local government(s) are generally considered to be public, despite the fact that they may be organized as nonprofit corporations. The situation in Pennsylvania is actually a mix of these two methods of establishment. Given the ambiguity of the FSCS definitional structure, it is understandable as to why this state reported all of its libraries in the "Other" category.

Further conflicts exist when a nonprofit library serves a specific government(s). Obviously a nonprofit library could serve a specific municipality(ies), and/or county(ies). As cited in the New York example, a nonprofit library can also serve a school district. This also puts the respondent in a dilemma as to which category to place these entities.

Alternative Classification Format

A potential solution to these definitional problems would be to split the organizational question into two components, namely administrative structure versus geographic service area. An example of how these questions might be structured is indicated below.

Geographic Area

Which category best describes the geographic area served by your library?

___ A Single Municipality
___ A Single County
___ A Single School District
___ Two or More Counties
___ Two or More Municipalities
___ Other Specify_____ ___

Administrative Structure

Which category best describes the administrative structure of your library's governing board?

___ Elected by the voters

___ Appointed by public officials (Check all that apply)

___ By County Officials
___ By Municipal Officials
___ By School Dist Officials
___ Other Specify_____

___ No separate library board (Library is run directly by the officials of a sponsoring government)

___ Nonprofit corporation: (Check all that apply)
___ Board appointed by public officials
___ Self-perpetuating board
___ Board elected by members of the corporation
___ Other Specify_____

A "split" question would allow more flexibility in classification. Rather than asking the state to classify its libraries according to FSCS definitions, the responses to a split question would allow FSCS to interpret the results and fit the responses into its own classification framework as it sees fit. This would give a truer picture of library organization on the national level.

Another alternative for information collection would be to ask the libraries for the citation of the authorizing legislation under which they were organized. This approach, however, would work well in some states, and be fairly limited in others. It could also be a one time question.

Examples of Conflict

Following are several illustrations of the conflict between geographic and administrative criteria in the classification of public libraries as reported by individual states:

1. The Indiana statutes describe two types of library districts (Class 1 and Class 2). A closer examination of the statutes, however, reveals that the administrative and geographic characteristics of individual libraries in each class vary widely. In the state's publication "*Statistics of Indiana Libraries,*" twelve distinct types of libraries are specified. Many

of these types could potentially fit into two or more of the FSCS definitions. For example, a public library which serves only certain portions of a county (referred to as "County (Partial)" by the state) could be classified as a county, multi-jurisdictional, or a special district library. A library which serves two or more townships (referred to as "Township (Merged)" by the state) could be classified as a municipal or a multi-jurisdictional library. Note that even though the state defines its public libraries as "districts," they reported no "special district" libraries in the FSCS census.

2. Another illustration of this conflict can be found in Massachusetts. Although several nonprofit public libraries have been established in the state, none were reported on the FSCS census. This may be due to the fact that these libraries have very close ties with the municipalities they serve. The Springfield city library (operated by the Springfield City Library and Museum Association, a nonprofit corporation) is one such example. Many of the other New England states which have nonprofit libraries associated with municipalities reported these entities in the nonprofit category, such as Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

3. Another issue of definitional interpretation arises in the state of Tennessee. The state reported its twelve regional libraries in the special district category. These libraries are created by joint action of counties and/or municipalities and are clearly multi-jurisdictional in the geographic sense. It is in the administrative sense that these libraries might be categorized as special districts. Note that in the other Southern states where the "regional" library approach is common, these types of entities were generally reported under the multi-jurisdictional category.

4. In the case of Pennsylvania, the FSCS shows all of its public libraries in the "other" legal basis category. As discussed in chapter 2, most public libraries in Pennsylvania are organized as nonprofit corporations. This is not to say that all libraries in the state should be reported under the nonprofit category. Most of these libraries, in fact, are formed by one or more county, municipal, and/or school district governments to serve their respective jurisdictions. These "corporations" are often controlled by the sponsoring government(s).

   Each individual library is organized differently under its own articles of incorporation, and it would, therefore, be rather meaningless, if not impossible, to try to categorize these entities based on the FSCS definitions. Hence the classification of these libraries in the "other" category for FSCS purposes is proper.

5. An interesting parallel to the Pennsylvania situation can be found in New York. In New York, all public libraries must be granted a "charter" by the state. Specific provisions for the organization of a library are contained in these charters. Unlike Pennsylvania, however, New York has its own classification system in place for its public libraries.

   Slightly more than half of all public libraries reported in the FSCS are classified as nonprofit in New York. These could represent public libraries created under several of the statutory provisions cited in the next chapter, such as "association libraries." There are 13 types of libraries authorized in New York State. Most would appear to be affiliated or dependent upon one or more types of local government, although independent public library districts are permitted as well. (Some of the latter are reported in the FSCS.) The diversity of the legal basis found in the FSCS for public libraries in New York State is illustrated in table 2.

6. Some states apparently have integrated the FSCS definitions with those of their own state statutes. The ten special district libraries reported by Arizona represent the "County Library Districts" in that state. These "districts", however, are created by the county, and the county governing body serves, *ex officio*, as the board of library trustees. Clearly, in an administrative sense, these are county libraries, but because the state laws

designate them as districts they are reported as such for the FSCS.

7. Another common pattern exists in the case of library systems, usually consisting of county and regional libraries that serve multiple jurisdictions. In some cases, these systems own and operate all library facilities in their respective service areas. In other cases, some systems operate in a situation where the component libraries of the system maintain some form of individual identity.

   For example, in some county systems the municipal libraries comprising the system maintain their own boards of trustees and some degree of autonomy apart from the main system. These types of situations present potential undercounts or overcounts of public libraries in a particular state. In many of these situations dual services are being provided. In other situations the component libraries might be responsible for capital expenditures while the system might be responsible for operating expenses. In still other scenarios the system might own and operate all libraries within its area of jurisdiction.

   An example of this dual existence can be found in Delaware. In that state, with a few notable exceptions, three county library systems operate public libraries statewide. The state however, has reported twenty-seven municipal libraries. This could possibly represent a case where individual municipalities retain a limited amount of control over their libraries within a larger system.

8. The regional libraries in Tennessee provide another illustration of this situation. Although these libraries serve a large portion of the state, several counties and municipalities have reported their own libraries separately.

9. On the other hand, in states such as Maryland and Wyoming, each county system controls all library facilities and services within its jurisdiction. The data in Table 2 illustrates this with each county system being counted as a single public library for FSCS purposes..

10. Another potential conflict exists between the FSCS categories of "school district" and "combined school/media center." The former definitional category would seem to be a geographical designation, while the latter could be interpreted as an administrative arrangement. An illustration of this conflict is found in Alaska, which theoretically has no separate "school district" governments. The four Alaska libraries reported in this category should probably be included in the "combined school/media center" category.

    In any case, it can be seen that a library which serves a school district could also be classified as a combined school / media center library, especially when facilities are shared between the students and the general public. This situation could also surface in the case of a combined academic/public library where the underlying college is run by a community college district.

Conclusion

Despite the previous examples, in many states there appears to be little or no conflict between the FSCS definitions and the data reported by the state. That the legal basis code reported by individual states closely mirrors the FSCS definitions, can be illustrated by observing the reporting patterns of states with similar library structures and service delivery.

- Several states provide a large portion of library services through regional libraries. These states tend to report a significant number of libraries in the multi-jurisdictional category. This pattern can be seen in such states as Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Virginia.

- Other states provide library services primarily at the county level. This trend exists in such states as Louisiana, Maryland, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Wyoming.

- Some states provide library services primarily on the municipal level through both public and association

libraries. This pattern is evident in states such as Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

- Many states provide library services almost exclusively at the municipal level with little or no use of association libraries. These states include Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

- Numerous states provide library services through several different methods. This type of diversity is evident in the FSCS reporting by Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Classification is a complex area, but it is useful for statistical purposes to maintain the basic categories, or at least some form of taxonomy. In general, the legal basis codes reported by the states seemed to fit fairly well into the FSCS definitional framework. The only point of confusion that could possibly be addressed by the FSCS is that of geographic versus administrative predominance in classification. This is especially true in states which have very diverse library structures.

The next chapter contains descriptions of the legal basis for libraries on a state-by-state basis. In many cases individual state definitions parallel those of the FSCS. In other cases it can be seen why some individual states face challenges in classifying their libraries in the context of FSCS categories.

Table 1. Number of Public Libraries and Facilities, by State: 1993

State	Public libraries	Facilities: Centrals	Facilities: Branches
United States total	8,929	8,887	7,017
Alabama	208	208	72
Alaska	85	85	12
Arkansas	36	38	156
Arizona	39	87	71
California	169	159	896
Colorado	120	114	118
Connecticut	194	194	50
District of Columbia	1	1	26
Delaware	29	27	2
Florida	100	116	299
Georgia	54	51	308
Hawaii	1	1	48
Idaho	107	104	37
Illinois	606	606	149
Indiana	238	239	177
Iowa	517	517	28
Kansas	320	320	49
Kentucky	116	116	69
Louisiana	65	65	259
Maine	225	225	5
Maryland	24	18	167
Massachusetts	374	374	118
Michigan	377	377	278
Minnesota	132	121	239
Mississippi	47	47	199
Missouri	148	148	198
Montana	83	83	28
Nebraska	269	269	15
Nevada	26	25	50
New Hampshire	229	229	9
New Jersey	310	310	152
New Mexico	69	69	18
New York	758	758	338
North Carolina	74	58	287
North Dakota	78	78	12
Ohio	250	247	440
Oklahoma	110	110	80
Oregon	124	120	78
Pennsylvania	448	444	182
Rhode Island	51	51	23
South Carolina	40	40	141
South Dakota	113	113	20
Tennessee	137	137	147
Texas	498	498	249
Utah	69	49	43
Vermont	201	201	5
Virginia	90	83	212
Washington	70	62	250
West Virginia	97	97	78
Wisconsin	380	375	76
Wyoming	23	23	54

Source: Federal State Cooperative System for Library Statistics, 1993 Public Library Census.

Table 2. Legal Basis for Public Libraries, by State: 1993

State	Municipal	County	Multi-jurisdictional	Native American	Non-profit	School district	Special district	Academic & public	School & public	Other
United States total	4,972	1,074	616	10	867	319	529	8	67	466
Alabama	149	16	38	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
Alaska	40	4	3	-	21	4	-	3	10	-
Arkansas	7	10	18	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Arizona	27	2	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
California	105	53	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-
Colorado	31	22	23	-	-	1	38	-	5	-
Connecticut	97	-	-	-	97	-	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delaware	27	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida	52	38	9	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Georgia	-	5	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii 1/	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Idaho	56	-	-	-	2	-	43	-	4	2
Illinois	350	-	-	-	-	-	252	-	4	-
Indiana	27	51	157	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Iowa	514	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kansas	290	14	2	-	-	-	-	-	8	6
Kentucky	2	8	3	-	-	-	103	-	-	-
Louisiana	4	59	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Maine	171	-	-	-	53	-	-	1	-	-
Maryland	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts	374	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Michigan	231	24	94	-	-	27	1	-	-	-
Minnesota	104	12	15	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Mississippi	2	28	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Missouri	84	36	17	-	8	2	1	-	-	-
Montana	17	32	32	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Nebraska	255	9	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nevada	3	10	5	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
New Hampshire	215	-	2	-	6	-	-	1	5	-
New Jersey	231	14	6	-	59	-	-	-	-	-
New Mexico	61	3	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
New York	196	5	6	2	398	130	20	-	1	-
North Carolina	10	42	17	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
North Dakota	60	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Ohio	24	55	-	-	18	153	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma	99	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oregon	88	19	-	-	4	1	9	1	2	-
Pennsylvania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	448
Rhode Island	22	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-
South Carolina	1	35	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Dakota	85	17	7	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
Tennessee	3	122	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-
Texas	269	145	12	-	68	-	-	-	3	1
Utah	40	27	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermont	96	-	-	-	93	-	-	-	12	-
Virginia	23	42	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Washington	50	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-
West Virginia	46	30	20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	333	15	24	4	-	1	-	-	3	-
Wyoming	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(1) Hawaii public libraries are administered by the state government.
Note: Detail sums to 8,928 only. One public library in the FSCS dataset had no legal basis code.
Source: Federal State Cooperative System for Library Statistics, 1993 Public Library Census.

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CHAPTER 2. THE LEGAL STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The following pages contain a state-by-state description of the legal structure and organization of public libraries. The citations referenced are taken from the various state codes, statutes and administrative rules and are updated through June 1995. The citations do not include uncodified special acts enacted in some states, nor do they include citations to local laws contained in county and municipal charters and codes. It would be a monumental task to identify all local laws relating to libraries in some states.

This chapter is intended to illustrate the basic legal framework for library structure in each state. Most of the libraries in a particular state will conform to the provisions of this "framework". Because of the unique nature of the evolution of the library as a public service, some entities may be operating under laws which have been "grandfathered" and are no longer on the books. In these cases, provisions for library governance and structure may vary slightly from the state descriptions.

The descriptions in this chapter are intended to outline the types of libraries which are legally authorized in each state. In some cases certain laws have not been, or are not currently being utilized.

No attempt was made to detail the structure of association libraries. These libraries are so diverse that one would have to examine each library on an individual basis using charters, articles of incorporation, and so forth. The research for this report revealed association libraries which had self-perpetuating boards, boards appointed by one or more governments, and even boards elected by the membership of the library (often by those holding library cards). Funding for these types of libraries is derived from local, state and federal appropriations, and, in many cases, private contributions and funds from an original endowment or trust fund.

There are two points to note concerning the format of the descriptions that follow. First, they contain the state definition of a public library if it was included in the state statutes. Second, they may contain notes concerning individual public libraries. These notes are found in cases where state authorizing legislation has created a unique public library entity. In these cases, the note refers to how the entity was reported for FSCS census purposes.

ALABAMA

Public libraries in Alabama are organized under Alabama Code 11-90-1 et. seq. The Alabama Administrative Code r. 520-2-2 defines the following types of libraries:

Municipal: Libraries operated by a board of five trustees appointed by a municipality and funded by the municipality.

County: Libraries operated by a board of five trustees appointed by the county and funded by the county.

City-County: Libraries operated by a board of five trustees with an agreed upon number of members appointed by each government, and funded jointly by both governments.

District Library: A public library serving a taxing district which has been authorized by legislative action and created by a majority vote of the residents of the district, and whose policy-making board is elected in accordance with the provision of the legislative action. These libraries are funded by a property tax.

Public Library System: An organization composed of public libraries for the purpose of providing library services within a framework of written contracts; the system may also contract with counties and municipalities not having library service. Systems may take the form of Regional Library Systems or Cooperative Library Networks. Systems are governed by a board of five to 15 trustees appointed by member libraries and/or governments. Systems are funded by state and local appropriations.

In addition to the above types of libraries, school libraries may serve the community during nonschool hours, and nonprofit corporations may be formed to administer public libraries. The H. Grady Bradshaw Library located in Valley is administered by such a corporation, and it is reported in the FSCS census with a legal basis code of "county/parish."

ALASKA

Public libraries in Alaska are organized under the provisions of 14.56.010 et. seq. and 10.20.005 et. seq. of the Alaska Statutes, and title 4 section 57.067 of the Alaska Administrative Code:

Incorporated areas in Alaska: (Boroughs[2] and Municipalities) may directly operate libraries. Funding is provided by local appropriations and state grants.

Nonprofit public library corporations: (sometimes referred to as "rural community libraries") may be formed to provide library services in unincorporated communities. These libraries are funded primarily through state grants. Title to library facilities vests in the state until the underlying community incorporates as a municipality.

School/Community Libraries: these may be formed under a joint contract between a school board and the governing board of a library. Funding arrangements are specified in the contract.

ARIZONA

Public libraries in Arizona are organized under Arizona Revised Statutes Annotated 9-411 et. seq., 11-901 et. seq., 15-362 et. seq., and 48-3901 et. seq. The following types of libraries may be created:

Municipal: Libraries are operated by a board of six or nine trustees appointed by the municipality. Funding is provided through a special property tax levied by the municipality.

County Library Districts: These districts are governed by the county board of supervisors, *ex officio*. They are financed by a special property tax levied by the county. Library service is provided to unincorporated areas of the county, and to any municipality which chooses to join the district.

School/Community: Libraries are operated by the board of education of a school district. Financing is provided through the school district, and through fees and charges on school district residents.

In addition, counties and municipalities are free to contract with each other for library services.

ARKANSAS

Public libraries in Arkansas are organized under Arkansas Statutes Annotated 13-2-101 et. seq., and the Arkansas Constitution Amendments 30 and 38. The following types of libraries may be formed under Arkansas law:

Municipal: Libraries are operated by a board of five to seven trustees appointed by the municipal governing body. These libraries may be funded through an *ad valorem* property tax authorized by the municipality, and a special *ad valorem* property tax authorized by the voters.

County: Libraries may be operated directly by the county or through a county created library board. Funding is provided through county appropriations, and a special *ad valorem* property tax if approved by the voters.

Regional Libraries: These libraries are created through intergovernmental agreements between two or more counties to provide library service on a regional basis. Governance and funding are provided for in the agreement.

In addition municipalities and/or counties may contract with one another for service and jointly establish libraries.

CALIFORNIA

Public libraries in California are organized under the California Education Code 18000 et. seq., and the California Government Code 26170 & 61000 et. seq. The following types of libraries may be established in California:

Municipal: Libraries are governed by a board of five trustees appointed by the municipality and are funded by the municipality.

[2]"Boroughs" in Alaska are treated as county equivalents for Census purposes.

County Free Libraries: These libraries are established and governed by the county board of supervisors. Funding is provided by the county.

Library Districts in Union High School and Unified School Districts: These districts may be formed in Union High or Unified School Districts upon petition of voters and approval at referendum. They are governed by the board of the school district, *ex officio*. Funding is provided through a special property tax.

Library Districts: These districts may be formed in one or more counties upon petition of the qualified electors. They are governed by a board of three or five elected trustees. Funding is provided by a special property tax.

Library Districts in Unincorporated Towns and Villages: These districts may be formed in unincorporated towns or villages upon petition of voters and approval at referendum. They are governed by a board of five elected trustees, and funded through a special property tax.

Cooperative Public Library Systems: These systems are generally established under joint powers agreements for the purpose of providing regional services to member libraries. They are governed by boards consisting of representatives appointed by members, and are funded through formulas specified in the individual agreements.

Shasta County Regional Library Facilities and Services Commission: This commission was formed by a special act to provide library services in Shasta County. It consists of a board of seven members with two appointed by the county, one appointed by each incorporated municipality in the county, one appointed by the county board of education and two appointed by the aforementioned five. Funding is provided through a special property tax levy. This public library is reported in the FSCS census with a legal basis code of "county."

In addition to the above, community service districts may provide library services, and libraries may establish joint powers agencies for the construction of library facilities.

Definition

The California Code defines a public library as "a library, or two or more libraries, that is operated by a single public jurisdiction and that serves its residents free of charge."

COLORADO

Public libraries in Colorado may be formed under the Colorado Revised Statutes 24-90-101 et. seq., and the Colorado Code of Regulations 1-301-1 et. seq. The following types of libraries are authorized:

Municipal Libraries: These libraries are established by the governing body of the municipality on its own initiative, or after petition of registered voters. They are governed by a board of five to seven trustees appointed by the municipality, and are funded by a special property tax levy, and municipal appropriations.

County Libraries: County libraries are established by the governing body of the county either directly, or upon petition of registered voters. They are governed by a board of five to seven trustees appointed by the county, and are funded through a special property tax, and county appropriations.

School District Libraries: These libraries are established and operated by the school board. They are funded through school district appropriations.

Library Districts: These districts are formed by resolution of two or more counties and/or municipalities or petition of voters, and approval at referendum. A board of five to seven trustees is appointed either by a committee of representatives of the governing bodies of the participating governments, or by two thirds majority approval of all participating governments. Funding is provided through a voter approved property tax levy.

Metropolitan Library Districts: These districts may be established by two or more counties or city-counties within a standard metropolitan statistical area it the combined population totals at least 500,000. Establishment, governance, and funding are under the same provisions as library districts.

Regional Library Service Systems: These systems which provide regional services to existing libraries are established by three or more libraries upon the approval of the state department of education. They are governed by a board of at least three trustees appointed by member libraries. The systems receive both state and local funding.

Definition

The Colorado statutes define a public library as "a library which is established, operated, and maintained in whole or in part with money derived from taxation, and which is for the free use of the public, and includes county libraries, municipal libraries, library districts, and joint libraries."

CONNECTICUT

Public libraries in Connecticut are authorized by Connecticut Gen. Statutes 11-1 et. seq. The following types of libraries may be created in Connecticut:

Municipal Libraries: These libraries may be formed by a municipality on its own initiative. Libraries are governed as specified in the charter of the municipality. In the absence of a charter provision libraries are governed by an elected board of trustees consisting of a membership divisible by three. Funding is provided through state and local appropriations, and may include a special property tax if approved by the voters.

Association Libraries: These libraries are established as nonprofit corporations often in connection with a will, deed or bequest to provide free library services to the public. Governance is set out in the original instrument or articles of incorporation. These libraries may receive state, local and private funding. In many cases some funding is also derived from the original endowment.

School District Libraries: Incorporated school districts may establish libraries in the same manner as a municipality. These libraries are governed in the same manner as municipal libraries and are funded through school district appropriations.

Fire District Libraries: Fire districts which perform multiple functions may establish libraries for the use of district residents. These libraries are governed in the same manner as municipal libraries and are funded by the fire district.

Cooperative Library Service Units: These are organizations to provide coordinated resource sharing, planning, and development of regional programs and may be organized by public libraries as nonprofit corporations. They are funded primarily through state appropriations.

Library Service Centers: These centers provide supplementary books and related library materials and services to public libraries and public schools and may be established by the state library board. The center may be governed by an advisory board consisting of representatives from participating libraries. The state library board is responsible for the maintenance, and, presumably, the funding for these centers.

Libraries may also be established by contract or intergovernmental agreement between municipalities.

Definition

The Connecticut Statutes define a public library as "a library that serves its residents through its outlet or outlets without charging a borrower's card fee and which receives its financial support in whole or in part from local tax funds."

DELAWARE

Public libraries in Delaware are generally organized under Delaware Code Annotated 9 § 801 and 14 § 7101, but there are several exceptions. The following types of libraries are authorized in Delaware:

County Library Systems: These systems have been created by each county in the state. They are governed by an advisory board appointed by the county, and funded by county tax levies. Kent county may also establish library districts, appoint an advisory board for each district and levy taxes at a specified rate within each district.

District Libraries: These libraries were created by petition of electors to a school district. They are governed by a board of commissioners appointed by

the resident judge(s) of the superior court of the county(ies) in which the district is situated. They are funded by a property tax levied by the school district. A 1975 law repealed the provisions authorizing these types of libraries, but those in existence were allowed to continue.

Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library: This library was created by a mid-nineteenth century special act. Provisions with regard to governance and funding are not clear, since the original act placed the library under the control of a school district which is no longer in existence. This public library is reported in the FSCS with a legal basis code of "municipal government."

The Wilmington Institute Library: This library provides services to the residents of New Castle County on a contractual basis. This public library is reported in the FSCS with a legal basis code of "municipal government."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Public libraries in Washington, DC are authorized under title 37 of the District of Columbia Code Annotated. The following types of libraries are authorized in Washington:

Washington, DC Public Library: This library was created by the city governing body. It is governed by a nine member board of trustees appointed by the Mayor, and subject to confirmation by the city council. Funding comes primarily from city appropriations.

FLORIDA

Public libraries in Florida are authorized under chapter 257 of the Florida Statutes and various special acts. The following types of libraries may be established in Florida:

Municipal Libraries: These libraries may be formed by municipal ordinance. They are governed as specified in the ordinance and funded through municipal contributions.

County Libraries: Any county may establish a library by ordinance of the county governing body. Governance and funding are specified in the creating ordinance.

Multi-County (Regional) Libraries: Two or more counties, and the municipalities therein may establish multi-county library systems under contract. They are governed as specified in the contract. Funding is obtained through member contributions and state grants.

Library Districts: These districts are created by special acts of the legislature to serve a specific area. They are governed by boards whose composition and appointment are specified in the authorizing legislation. Boards may be elected, appointed and/or *ex officio*. Funding is generally provided through a special property tax.

School-Community Libraries: These libraries may be established by a school district to serve the surrounding community. They are governed by the school district board, *ex officio*. Funding is provided through contracts with participating local governments.

Library Cooperatives (Established under chapter 257, 1992 law): These libraries may be established as non-profit corporations by libraries that are under separate governance for the purpose of sharing resources. They must consist of at least two types of libraries including any combination of academic, school, special, state, institutional and public libraries. They are governed by a board of trustees whose composition is specified in the articles of incorporation, but must include at least one member representing each type of library in the cooperative. They are funded through member contributions and state grants.

Pinellas Public Library Cooperative: This library was organized as a nonprofit corporation to provide library service to the unincorporated areas of the county, and any incorporated areas opting to join the cooperative. It is governed by a seven member board, three of whom are appointed by the county governing body, and four of whom are appointed by the aforementioned three. The cooperative is funded through a special property tax on the unincorporated areas of the county and municipal contributions. This entity should not be confused with "Library Cooperatives" established under chapter 257, as described above. This public library is reported in

the FSCS census with a legal basis code of "special library district."

GEORGIA

Public libraries in Georgia are authorized by Georgia Code Annotated 20-5-20 et. seq., and several special acts which set out the following types:

City Public Libraries: These libraries may be formed by resolution of the governing body of a city. They are governed by a board of trustees appointed by the city, and are financed through city tax levies.

County and Municipal Public Libraries: These libraries may be established upon resolution of the governing body of a county or municipality, or by petition of voters and approval at referendum. County libraries may also be established by contract between the county and municipalities within the county. These libraries are governed by boards of trustees appointed by the establishing government, or in the case of a county system encompassing more than one local government, at least one appointment must be made by each government. Financing is provided through county and municipal appropriations.

Regional Libraries: These libraries, which serve two or more counties, are formed by agreement between participating county library systems. Trustees are appointed by member systems in accordance with the bylaws of the regional system. Funding is provided by member systems.

HAWAII

Public libraries in Hawaii are authorized under chapter 312 of the revised statutes. The following library system is authorized in Hawaii:

State Public Library System: The state public library system serves the entire state and was created by an act of the Hawaii legislature. It is governed by the state board of education, *ex officio*. Funding is derived primarily from state sources.

IDAHO

Public libraries in Idaho are authorized by the Idaho Code 33-2601 et. seq., which sets out the following types of libraries:

City Libraries: These libraries may be established by resolution of the governing body of a city. A board of five trustees is appointed by the city, and funding is derived from a special property tax levied by the city.

Regional Library Systems: These systems may be formed by contract between two or more existing library systems, upon approval by the state library board. They are governed by a board of up to 25 trustees appointed by member libraries. They are financed through a combination of state, local, federal, and private funds.

Association Libraries: The Idaho statutes make a passing mention of these types of libraries. It is unclear as to how they are organized, with nonprofit corporations a possibility.

Library Districts: Library Districts are created by petition of voters to the county and approval at referendum. Districts are governed by a five member elected board of trustees and financed by a special property tax.

School-Community Library Districts: These districts may be formed by petition of voters to a school district and approval at referendum. They are governed by a five member board of trustees; four of which are elected, and one who is appointed by the school board. Funding is provided through a special property tax.

ILLINOIS

Public libraries in Illinois are authorized generally under chapter 75 of the Compiled Statutes. The following types of libraries are authorized under Illinois law:

City Libraries: These libraries may be established by the city governing body. They are governed by a

board of nine trustees appointed by the city governing body. They are funded through a special property tax levied by the city. Libraries in home rule cities may receive an equivalent tax amount.

Village Libraries (1939 Law): These libraries may be established by the governing body of a village. They are governed by a three member commission appointed by the village governing body. They are funded through a property tax levied by the village.

Village, Incorporated Town, and Township Libraries: These libraries are established by petition of voters to the governing body of a village, incorporated town or township, and approval at referendum. They are governed by a seven member board of trustees elected by the voters, except in villages under the commission form of government where they are governed by a six member board of trustees appointed by the village governing body. They are funded through a special property tax levied by the sponsoring government.

County Libraries: These libraries may be established by the county governing body subject to a referendum after the fact. They are governed by a five member board of trustees appointed by the county governing body. Funding is derived through a special property tax levied by the county.

Incorporated Libraries: These libraries are established through a will or deed. They are governed by a seven to 25 member self-perpetuating board of directors. They are funded through the original gift and may also receive local appropriations.

Library Districts: These libraries may be established by petition of voters to the Circuit Court of a county, or by resolution of an existing tax supported library, and approval at referendum. They are governed by a board of seven trustees who may be elected by the voters or appointed by the county governing body(ies). They are funded through a special property tax levy approved by the voters.

Combined School and Public Libraries: The Cissna Park Community Library District was established as a combined school and public library under the Library District Act. This public library is reported in the FSCS census with a legal basis code of "combined school media center/public library."

Library Systems (Cooperative, Consolidated, and Multi-type): Covering the entire territory of the state, these systems are created to facilitate the pooling of resources of member libraries, and are formed by the approval of the boards of directors of participating libraries and the state librarian. Most of the libraries located within the boundaries of each system are members, except for a few which do not meet the system's requirements or do not choose to be members. The state currently has 12 multi-type systems and no consolidated or cooperative systems. The multi-type systems are governed by a board of five to 15 directors selected by member libraries. They are funded through state and federal grants and contractual reimbursements through the state library.

Libraries in Parks: Existing incorporated libraries may request the authorization of a city, park district, or park commission to build a free public library on park land. The establishment of such a library requires voter approval. They are governed by the board of directors of the incorporated library and funded as an incorporated library.

Mills and Petrie Memorial Library and Gymnasium: This library was established by a special act and a donation. It is governed by a board of trustees appointed by the president of the village governing body. It is funded by a special property tax levied by the village of Ashton. This public library is reported in the FSCS census with a legal basis code of "municipal."

INDIANA

The state of Indiana has several types of public libraries as authorized by Indiana Code Annotated 20-14-1-1 et. seq.. Basically libraries in Indiana fall into one of three categories, namely, class 1 library districts, class 2 library districts, and library services authorities. Each is briefly described below:

Class 1 Library Districts: These districts may be created by resolution or petition to serve one or more counties, municipalities, townships, and/or school districts. They are governed by appointed boards whose composition varies based on several different

special acts. Funding is provided through a special property tax levy.

Class 2 Library Districts: These districts are defined as all districts which are not class 1 library districts. Provisions for creation are set out in several different special acts. These districts are generally governed by appointed boards, but may, in some cases, be governed by elected boards. Some of these districts have been established through endowments. Funding is generally provided through a special property tax.

Library Services Authorities: These authorities are established by two or more libraries to provide regional library services. They are governed by a board appointed by member libraries. Funding is provided by member libraries.

It should be noted, however, that lumping public libraries into two classes (plus the services authority category) is a bit of an oversimplification. The publication "*Statistics of Indiana Libraries*" sets out 12 different types. All 12 of these types can be classified as either a class 1 or 2 district, but they are actually created under specific special legislation. Consequently, the organization of different types of libraries within the same class may be quite different.

Definition

The Indiana code defines a public library as "a municipal corporation that provides library services and is organized under IC 20-14-2, IC 20-14-4, IC 20-14-5, IC 20-14-6, or IC 20-14-7."

IOWA

Public libraries in Iowa may be created under chapters 256, 336, and 392 of the Iowa Code. The following types of libraries are authorized:

Municipal Libraries: These libraries may be created by resolution of a municipal governing body. They are generally governed by a board of trustees appointed by the city governing body, but, at local option, the board may be elected. Funding is provided through a special property tax, and municipal contributions.

County Library Districts: These districts may be formed by the county board of supervisors of one or more counties after petition and referendum. They are governed by a board appointed by the county and funded through a special property tax levy.

Regional Library Boards: The state established seven regional library boards to provide service to areas previously lacking library service, and to supplement service in existing areas. They are governed by seven member elected boards, and funded through state, federal and local funds.

KANSAS

Public libraries in Kansas are governed by Kansas Statutes Annotated 12-1215 et. seq., and 75-2547 et. seq., as well as, various special acts. The following types of libraries are authorized in Kansas:

City, County, and Township Libraries: These libraries may be established upon petition of voters to the sponsoring government and approval at referendum. A board of trustees consisting of five members (except where a different number is authorized by special act) appointed by the sponsoring government governs the library. Funding is provided through *ad valorem* property taxes.

Regional Library System Boards (1965 Law): These libraries are created by petition of one or more local library boards to the State Library Advisory Commission. The board of directors consists of one or more representatives of each participating library board, and one or more representatives appointed by the Governor to represent areas within the boundaries of the system, but not served by member library boards. The systems may levy *ad valorem* taxes, and accept state and federal grants.

Regional Library Boards (1951 Law): These libraries are established by any two or more adjoining counties or townships after voter approval. They are governed by a board consisting of six directors appointed by the participating governments, and the executive of each participating government serving, *ex officio*. They are funded by property tax levies of the participating governments.

City-County Library Districts: These districts are established by resolution of a city and county, and approval at referendum. They are governed by a ten member board with three members appointed by the county and seven members appointed by the city. The district may levy a special *ad valorem* property tax.

Library Districts in Townships and Third Class Cities: These districts are created by petition of voters to the county commission and approval at referendum. They are governed by a seven member elected board of directors. The district may levy an *ad valorem* property tax.

Kansas City Public Library: This library was established by a special act and subsequent resolution of the Unified School District 500 to serve the city of Kansas City, Kansas. The library is governed by the school board, *ex officio*, and is financed by a special property tax levied by the school district. This public library is reported in the FSCS with a legal basis code of "municipal government."

Library boards in Hutchinson, Salina, and Topeka: These library boards were created by petition of electors to the city governing bodies and approval at referendum. They are governed by boards of trustees appointed by the city, and may levy a special *ad valorem* property tax. The public libraries in Hutchinson and Salina are reported in the FSCS census with a legal basis code of "municipal." The public library in Topeka also is reported in the FSCS census with a legal basis code of "multi-jurisdictional."

Definition

The Kansas statutes define local public libraries as "libraries operating under the provisions of K.S.A. 12-1215 to 12-1248, inclusive, and amendments thereto; (2) libraries operating under the provisions of K.S.A. 1994 Supp. 12-1260 to 12-1270, inclusive, and amendments thereto; (3) libraries operating under the provisions of K.S.A. 1994 Supp. 12-1276, and amendments thereto; (4) libraries operating under the provisions of K.S.A. 72-1623, and amendments thereto; or (5) municipalities contracting with any library for the furnishing of library services to such municipality pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1230 or 12-1269, and amendments thereto."

KENTUCKY

Public libraries in Kentucky may be formed under the provisions of chapter 173 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes. The following types of libraries are authorized under Kentucky Law:

Libraries in First Class Cities: These libraries may be established by ordinance of a city of the first class. They are governed by a board of trustees appointed by the Mayor. If the county containing the city contracts with the library for services, the county judge/executive appoints six of the board members. Financing is provided through a property tax levied by the city, and county appropriations if the county contracts for service.

Libraries in Counties, and Cities of the Second Through Sixth Class: These libraries may be created by the sponsoring government, either on its own initiative, or by petition of voters and approval at referendum. These libraries are governed by a board of trustees appointed by the sponsoring government, and financed through appropriations by the sponsoring government.

Regional Libraries: These libraries are established by contract between two or more counties. They are governed by a board of trustees appointed by the member counties. Financing is provided by each county on a *pro rata* (assessed valuation) basis.

Public Library Districts (1960 and 1964 Laws): These districts may be created by petition of voters to the county and approval at referendum. They are governed by a board of trustees appointed by the county judge upon recommendation of the State Department of Libraries and Archives. The districts may levy a special *ad valorem* property tax.

Definition

The Kentucky statutes define a public library as "a library which is established as the county-wide library system by any of the methods provided by KRS chapter 173."

LOUISIANA

Public libraries in Louisiana are authorized by the Louisiana Revised Statutes Annotated 25:211 et. seq.

The following types of libraries may be created in Louisiana:

Parish and Municipal Libraries: These libraries may be formed by a parish or municipal government on their own initiative, or upon petition of 25 percent of the electors. Municipal libraries are governed by a board of control consisting of five members appointed by the governing body, and the Mayor or another member of the municipal governing body, *ex officio*; likewise parish libraries are governed by a board of control consisting of five to seven members appointed by the parish governing body, and the chief executive or another member of the governing body, *ex officio*. The composition of some boards may vary due to special acts. Funding is provided through a special voter-approved property tax levied by the sponsoring government(s).

Libraries in Home-Rule Municipalities and Parishes: These libraries are created by the charter of the sponsoring government. Provisions for governance and funding may be found in individual parish or municipal charters.

South St. Landry Community Library District: This district was created by special act to provide library services in the southern portion of St. Landry Parish. It is governed by a board of seven commissioners; the governing body of the parish appoints four members, and the Mayors of Sunset, Grand Coteau, and Cankton each appoint one member. The district may levy a special property tax, and receive contributions from member governments. This public library is reported in the FSCS with a legal basis code of "special library district."

Parishes and municipalities may also enter into contracts to provide joint library services.

MAINE

Public libraries in Maine are authorized under the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated 27 § 101 et. seq. The following types of libraries may be created in the state:

Municipal, Town and Plantation Libraries: These libraries may be established by the governing body of a city, town or plantation. Provisions for their governance are provided by the establishing government. They are funded through property tax levies and appropriations. In addition, cities and towns may form joint libraries.

Corporation or Association Libraries: These libraries are established as nonprofit corporations, generally through a will, gift or bequest. The method of governance is set out in their individual corporate charters. They may receive both private and public funding.

Village Corporation Libraries: These libraries may be established by any village corporation located within a town in which no free library exists. They are governed as provided by the village corporation, and are funded through a special property tax levy.

School (Community) Libraries: School libraries located in communities with no public library service may opt to provide free service to all residents. The method of governance is established by the creating school committee or district. Funding is provided by the sponsoring school system and the library is also eligible for state grants as a "public library."

Library Districts: These districts are created by the state library commission to promote inter-library cooperation among members. They are governed by an advisory board with one member appointed by each local library opting to join the district. A nine-member executive committee oversees day-to-day operations. Funding is provided through both state and local sources.

Definition

The Maine statutes define a public library as "a library freely open to all persons and receives its financial support from a municipality, private association, corporation, or group. (It) serves the informational, educational, and recreational needs of all the residents of the area for which its governing body is responsible."

MARYLAND

Public libraries in Maryland are authorized by Maryland Education Code Annotated § 23-101 et. seq. The following types of libraries are authorized:

County Public Libraries: These libraries are formed by the governing body of the county. They are governed by a seven member board of trustees appointed by the county, although libraries established prior to 1945 may retain their original board structure. Funding is provided through local and state funding.

Cooperative Library Corporations: These corporations may be created by two or more library systems to administer joint library projects. Their governance is specified in the corporate charter. Funding is provided through state and local appropriations and fees.

Regional Resource Centers: These centers may be established by three or more library systems (outside of a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area) to provide regional services. They are governed by an advisory board consisting of two members appointed by each participating library system. The center may receive state funds.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library: This library was established by an 1882 special act to serve the city of Baltimore. It is governed by a nine member, self-perpetuating, board of trustees. Revenue is derived primarily from city appropriations. This public library is reported in the FSCS with a legal basis code of "county/parish."

The Washington County Free Library: This library was established by an 1898 special act to serve Washington County. It is governed by a seven member, self-perpetuating, board of trustees. Funding is provided through local, state, and other appropriations. This library has the distinction of operating the first bookmobile in the nation. This public library is reported in the FSCS, with a legal basis code of "county/parish."

MASSACHUSETTS

Public libraries in Massachusetts are authorized by the Annotated Laws of Massachusetts chapter 78 and various special acts. The following types of libraries may be established in Massachusetts:

City Libraries: These libraries may be formed by a city on its own initiative. Libraries are governed as specified in the charter of the municipality or by special acts of the state legislature. Funding is provided through state and local appropriations.

Town Libraries: These libraries may be established by resolution of the town governing body. They are governed by an elected board of trustees whose number is divisible by three (although special acts may provide differently). Funding is derived through local and state appropriations.

Association and Corporation Libraries: These libraries are established as nonprofit corporations, often in connection with a will, deed or bequest to provide free library services to the public. Governance is set out in the original instrument or articles of incorporation. These libraries may receive state, local and private funding. In many cases some funding is also derived from the original endowment.

Improvement District Libraries: These districts may be established by vote of the town meeting. They are governed by an elected prudential committee, and funded through a district-wide property tax levy.

Regional Public Library Systems: These systems may be established by the State Board of Library Commissioners to provide services to existing public libraries. They are governed by an advisory council appointed by member libraries. Funding is provided primarily through state appropriations.

Libraries may also be established by contract or intergovernmental agreement between municipalities.

MICHIGAN

Public libraries in Michigan are authorized under title 15 of the Michigan Statutes Annotated. The following types of libraries may be established in the state:

City Libraries: These libraries are established by a city council or by petition of voters and approval at referendum. They are governed by a board of five trustees appointed by the city governing body if established by the city council, or a board of six trustees elected by the voters if established by petition and referendum. They are funded through a special tax on property.

Village and Township Libraries: These libraries are created by petition of voters to the village or township clerk, and approval at referendum. They are governed by a board of six trustees elected by the voters. They are funded through a special property tax.

County Libraries: These libraries may be established by resolution of the board of supervisors of a county. They are governed by a board of five or seven members appointed by the county governing body. They are funded through a county property tax levy.

Joint Libraries: These libraries may be created by contract between two or more adjacent cities, villages, and or townships. They are governed by a board of up to nine directors which may be appointed or elected as specified in the contract. Funding is provided through special property tax levies and member contributions. These libraries have all the powers of "City Libraries" listed above.

Cooperative Library Boards: These boards may be formed by an agreement between two or more libraries upon approval by the state legislative council. The board consists of nine members appointed by the participating libraries. Funding is provided through state grants, local contributions, and nonresident borrower fees.

Regional Libraries: These libraries may be formed in two or more counties by the state library board after approval of a majority of the county governing bodies. They are governed by a board of trustees with two members appointed by each participating county. They are funded through county appropriations, and a special property tax levy if approved by the voters.

School District Public Libraries: These libraries may be created by the board of education of a school district. They are governed by a seven member board of commissioners appointed by the board of education. They are funded through school district contributions.

District Libraries: These libraries may be created through an agreement between two or more municipalities, townships, cities, villages, school districts and/or counties. They are governed by a five to eight member board which may be appointed by participating governments and/or elected by the voters). The board may collect a special property tax, and may receive local contributions.

In addition, local governments may contract with private libraries for public library service.

Definition

The Michigan statutes contain two definitions for the term "public library" The definition in conjunction with the State Aid to Public Libraries Act defines a public library as "a library which is lawfully established for free public purposes by one or more counties, cities, townships, villages, school districts, or other local governments or a combination thereof, or by a public or local act, the entire interests of which belong to the general public. It does not include a special library such as a professional, technical, or school library. " The Support of Libraries by Penal Fines Act defines a public library as "a library, the whole interests of which belong to the general public, lawfully established for free public purposes by any one or more counties, cities, townships, villages, school districts, or other local governments or a combination thereof, or by any general or local act, but shall not include a special library such as a professional or technical library or a school library."

MINNESOTA

Public libraries in Minnesota are authorized under chapter 134 of the Minnesota Statutes. The following types of libraries may be created in the state:

City and County Libraries: These libraries may be created either by petition of voters or direct resolution of the governing body of a city or county and subsequent voter approval. They are governed by a board of five, seven or nine members appointed by the city or county governing body. Cities with home rule charters may alter the composition and manner of selection of the board, or may abolish the board altogether. They are financed through a general property tax levied by the sponsoring government.

Regional Public Library Systems: These systems may be formed by agreement between two or more counties or two or more cities located in two or more counties, after approval of any existing library boards in the service area, either under the provisions of chapter 134, the Joint Exercise of Powers Law, or the Nonprofit Corporation Law. They are governed by a board consisting of representatives appointed by the member governments. Financing is provided through property tax levies by the member governments.

Regional Public Library Districts: These districts are authorized by special acts and may be created either by joint agreement between the cities and counties in the service area, or by petition of voters to each city and county and approval at referendum. They are governed by a board composed of elected trustees and, depending upon the method of formation, *ex officio*, and appointed members, as well. They are financed primarily through a special property tax levied by the district. None of these districts were reported in existence in 1995.

Joint City-School District Libraries: These libraries may be created by joint ordinance between a city and a school district. They are governed by a board of five, seven or nine trustees appointed by the mayor and school board as set out in the establishing ordinance. Financing is provided by city and school district appropriations subject to statutory minimums.

Multi-county, Multi-type Library Systems: These systems are established by the state board of education in an area coterminous with one or more existing regional library systems. They are governed by the board of the regional system, *ex officio*, in systems which serve only one regional library system. Systems serving more than one regional library system are governed by a board of nine members appointed by the regional systems in proportion to population. Funding is provided primarily through state and federal grants.

Definition

The Minnesota code defines a public library as "any library that provides free access to all residents of a city or county without discrimination, receives at least half of its financial support from public funds and is organized under the provisions of this chapter. Except as provided in section 134.195, it does not include libraries such as law, medical, school and academic libraries organized to serve a special group of persons, or libraries organized as a combination of a public library and another type of library."

MISSISSIPPI

Public libraries in Mississippi are authorized under Mississippi Code Annotated 39-3-1 et. seq. The following types of libraries may be formed:

County and Municipal Libraries: These libraries are formed by resolution of a county or municipal governing body. They are governed by a board of five trustees (six in Harrison County) appointed by the sponsoring government. Funding is derived through a special property tax levied by the sponsoring government.

City-County Library Systems: These systems are formed by an agreement between the boards of trustees of a county and municipal library and approval of the sponsoring governments. They are governed by a board of trustees appointed by the sponsoring governments. The number appointed by each government is set out in the agreement. Funding is derived from a special property tax levied by the city and county.

Regional Library Systems: These systems are created by an agreement between two or more counties. They are governed by a board of trustees appointed by the member counties. They are funded through a formula specified in the creating agreement, with each county contributing its proportionate share.

In addition, libraries may be created by local acts of the Mississippi legislature.

Definition

The Mississippi code defines the term "public library" as "A library which provides customary services, without charge, to all the residents of a county, city or region, and is supported in whole or in part by public funds."

MISSOURI

Public libraries in Missouri are organized under chapters 182, 137, and 70 of the Missouri Revised Statutes. The following types of libraries are authorized:

Municipal Library Districts: These libraries are formed by petition of voters to the city governing body, and approval at referendum. They are governed by a nine member board of trustees appointed by the mayor. Funding is provided through a special property tax and state grants.

County Library Districts: These districts are formed by petition of voters to the county governing body, and approval at referendum. They are governed by five member boards of trustees appointed by the county court. Funding is provided through a special property tax and state grants.

City-County Library Districts: These districts are formed by petition of a city library to the county governing body. They are governed by a board of nine trustees with five appointed by the government with the larger population, and four appointed by the other government. Funding is provided through a special property tax levy.

Regional and Consolidated Library Systems: These systems are formed by intergovernmental agreement between two or more counties, municipalities, townships, school districts, and or special districts to provide library services to the participants. The composition of the governing body and the specific method of funding are set out in the original agreement.

School District Public Libraries: These libraries may be created by a school district. They are governed by the school board, *ex officio*, and funded by the school district. The Kansas City public library currently operates under this law.

Urban Public Library District (Kansas City Public Library): This law was passed in 1988 to allow the residents of the Kansas City school district to convert the library to a district which would be independent of school district control. This district may be formed by resolution of the Kansas City school district board and voter approval. It would be governed by a nine member board of trustees, seven of whom would be appointed by the mayor of Kansas City, and two of whom would be appointed by the mayors of Independence and Sugar Creek. At the time of this writing the Kansas City public library was still operating as a school district public library. The Kansas City Public Library is reported in the FSCS census with a legal basis code of school district."

MONTANA

Public libraries in Montana are authorized by the Montana Code Annotated title 22. The following types of libraries are authorized in Montana:

Free Public Libraries: These libraries may be formed by one or more municipalities and/or counties, either on their own initiative, or by petition of voters and referendum. Libraries are governed by a five member board of trustees appointed by the chief elected executive of the creating government(s). Funding is provided through a special property tax levy and state appropriations.

School/Community Libraries: School districts may open their libraries to the public during non-school hours. These libraries are governed and funded by the sponsoring school district.

Library Federations: These systems may be established by contract between two or more free

public libraries to provide regional library services. They are governed by an advisory board of trustees appointed by member libraries. Funding is provided through state appropriations and local contributions.

Definition

Montana statutes define the term "public library" as "a library created under 22-1303 through 22-1-317 (Free public library statutes) that provides library services to the public by means of central facilities, branch facilities, or bookmobiles."

NEBRASKA

Public libraries in Nebraska are authorized by chapter 51 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska. The following types of libraries may be formed:

Municipal Libraries: These libraries may be formed by resolution of a municipality. They are governed by a five member board of trustees which may be appointed by the municipal governing body, or popularly elected. Funding is derived through a special property tax levied by the municipality.

Township Libraries: These libraries my be established by the electors of the township at the annual town meeting. They are governed by a five member board of trustees appointed by the township governing board. Funding is provided through a special property tax levied by the township.

County Libraries: Two different laws authorize the establishment of county libraries. In both cases these libraries are formed by county resolution and subsequent voter approval. Both types are funded by a special property tax levied by the county. One type is governed by a board of five trustees appointed by the county governing body, while the other type is governed directly by the county governing body, *ex officio*.

Regional Libraries: These libraries are created by resolution of two or more counties, and subsequent voter approval. They are governed by a commission consisting of not more than two members from each of the county boards. Funding is provided through a special property tax levied by member counties.

In addition special acts govern library organization in Omaha and Lincoln. Both of these public libraries are reported in the FSCS census with legal basis codes of "municipal."

NEVADA

Public libraries in Nevada are authorized by chapter 379 of the Nevada Revised Statutes. The following types of libraries may be formed:

City Libraries: These libraries may be established by resolution of a city. They may be governed by the city governing body, *ex officio*, or by a board of trustees appointed by the city. They are funded through city appropriations.

County Libraries: These libraries may be formed by resolution of the county board of commissioners. They are governed by a five member board of trustees appointed by the county, and funded through county appropriations.

County Library Districts: These districts may be formed by petition of voters and county resolution (subject to a backdoor referendum). They are governed by a board of five trustees appointed by the county governing body. Funding is provided through a special property tax. These districts need not be county wide, and several districts may be created within the same county.

Regional Libraries: These libraries may be formed by joint agreement between two or more counties and/or municipalities. They are governed by a board of five to eleven members appointed as specified in the agreement. Funding is provided by contributions from member governments.

Regional Network of Libraries: These systems may be formed by an intergovernmental agreement between two or more public libraries. They are governed by a board consisting of one member appointed by each participating library. Funding is provided through state, federal, and local contributions.

Town Libraries: Libraries established in unincorporated towns, under an 1895 law, before July 1, 1967 may continue to operate under the

provisions of the County, District, and Consolidated library laws. They were originally governed by a board of trustees appointed by the school district, but it is unclear as to how they are presently governed. (It could be assumed that the board of trustees is appointed by the county.) Funding is derived from county appropriations.

Las Vegas-Clark County Consolidated Library District: This district was created by a special act, and by joint resolution of the city and county. It is governed by a ten member board of trustees appointed equally by the city and county. Financing is through a special property tax levy. This public library is reported in the FSCS census with a legal basis code of "special library district."

Pahrump Library District: This district was created by a special act to serve the unincorporated town of Pahrump. It is governed and funded in the same manner as county library districts. This public library is reported in the FSCS census with a legal basis code of "special library district."

North Las Vegas Library District: This district was created by a special act and resolution of the North Las Vegas city council. It may be governed by the city council, itself, or by an appointed board of trustees. The district is funded through a special property tax, which must be equal to the rate levied by the Las Vegas-Clark County District. This public library is reported in the FSCS census with a legal basis code of "municipal."

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Public libraries in New Hampshire are authorized under chapters 201 and 202 of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated. The following types of libraries may be formed in New Hampshire:

City Libraries: Provisions for these libraries are found in individual city charters. Trustees are elected and funding is set out in the charter.

Town Libraries: These libraries may be formed by majority vote at a town meeting. They are governed by an elected board of trustees which must be odd in number. Funding is provided through town appropriations.

Corporation or Association Libraries: These libraries are formed as a corporation through a will, gift, or bequest. They become public upon the acceptance of the gift by the town meeting or city governing body. These libraries are governed as provided in their corporate articles, except that one elected member from the participating city or town is elected by the public to serve on the board. Funding is provided through the gift, and city or town appropriations.

Library Cooperatives: These libraries may be established by joint agreement between two or more libraries including school, academic and special libraries. Governance is provided for in the establishing agreement, and funding is derived from member contributions and state aid.

Area Library Forums: These organizations are created by the state library commissioner to promote cooperative library services, and establish a liaison between area libraries and the state library. They are governed by a board consisting of one representative from each public library, at least one from each school district, and a representative from each "other than public" library which chooses to participate. Funding is provided through state aid.

Definition

The New Hampshire Statutes define a public library as "every library which receives regular financial support, at least annually, from public and private sources and which provides regular and currently useful library service to the public without charge. The words may be construed to include reference and circulating libraries, reading rooms and museums regularly open to the public."

NEW JERSEY

Public libraries in New Jersey are authorized under titles 18A and 40 of the New Jersey Revised Statutes. The following types of libraries may be created in New Jersey:

Municipal Free Public Libraries: These libraries may be established in municipalities and townships after approval at referendum. They are governed by seven to nine members appointed by the chief executive of the municipality including the chief

executive, *ex officio*, and one of the local superintendents of schools. They are financed by general local purpose taxes.

County Free Libraries: These libraries may be established by a county governing body upon petition of voters and approval at referendum. They are governed by a five or seven member board appointed by the county governing body. They are funded through a dedicated purpose tax.

Joint Libraries: These libraries may be formed by two or more municipalities and/or townships after voter approval. They are governed by a board of trustees consisting of three members appointed by the chief executive officer of each municipality, the CEO, *ex officio*, and the local superintendent of schools of each participating government. Funding is provided by member contributions derived general local purpose taxes.

Regional Libraries: These libraries may be created by joint resolution of the governing bodies of two or more counties. They are governed by a board of trustees appointed by the participating counties. Funding is provided through a special property tax levied by the participating counties, and through contracts with municipalities.

Association Libraries: These libraries may be created as nonprofit corporations, often in conjunction with a will or bequest. They are governed as specified in the creating instrument, and may receive both public and private funding.

Local Library Cooperatives: These libraries may be formed under contract by two or more existing libraries, and are created as nonprofit corporations. They are governed by a board whose composition is specified in the contract. Funding is provided through state grants and member contributions.

Regional Library Cooperatives: These cooperatives are formed by the state librarian upon approval by the state board of education. A maximum of seven regions may be formed. They are governed by an executive board selected by the member libraries They are funded by state appropriations.

Federations of Free Public Libraries: These libraries are created by an agreement between two or more existing libraries. They are governed by an advisory council consisting of at least one member appointed by each participating library. Funding is derived through local appropriations.

Definition

The New Jersey statutes define a public library as "a library that serves free of charges all residents of an area without discrimination and receives its financial support, in whole or in part, from public funds." "Public library" does not include any special-purpose library, such as a law, medical, school or academic library, which are organized to serve a special clientele or purpose."

NEW MEXICO

Public libraries in New Mexico are authorized under sections 3-18-14, 53-9-1 and 4-36-1 of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated. The following types of libraries may be created:

Municipal Libraries: These libraries may be established by a municipal governing body. Methods of governance and funding are at the discretion of the municipality.

County Libraries: These libraries may be established by a county governing body. Methods of governance and funding are at the discretion of the county.

Regional Libraries: These libraries may be established after approval by the state library commission by agreement between two or more counties, and may have municipal members, as well. Governance and funding are provided for in the creating agreement.

Indian Pueblo Libraries: These libraries may be established by Indian Pueblos. Governance and funding are provided for by the tribal government.

In addition counties and municipalities may contract with each other or the state for library services.

NEW YORK

Public libraries in New York are authorized under New York Education Law article 5, New York Unconsolidated Law chapter 80, and numerous special acts. The following types of libraries may be created in New York:

Municipal Public Libraries: These libraries may be created in a village, town, city, or county by direct action of the governing body, or by petition and approval at referendum. They are governed by boards of trustees appointed by the sponsoring government. Funding may be provided through a special property tax, and appropriations by the sponsoring government.

City and County Public Library (Consolidated): These libraries may be established by resolution of a county governing body and subsequent merger of a county and city library system. They are governed by a board of 15 trustees appointed by the county governing body. Funding is provided through a special property tax levied by the county.

Joint Public Libraries: These libraries may be created by contract between two or more cities, towns, counties, villages, and/or school districts. They are governed by a board of five to 25 trustees appointed by member governments. Funding is provided by member governments as specified in the contract.

Indian Public Libraries: These libraries may be established by a tribal government, or by a vote of the tribal electorate. They may be governed by an elected, or appointed board. Funding is provided for by the tribal government.

Association Libraries: Association libraries are libraries established, in whole or in part, by a group of private individuals operating as an association, closed corporation or as trustees under the provisions of a will or deed of trust. They may serve a city, county, village, town, school district, fire district, voting district, or any combination of the above.

School District Public Libraries: These libraries may be created by petition of voters to the school board, and approval at referendum or, in the case of a city school system, directly by the school board. They are governed by a board of trustees elected by the voters, except in the case of city school systems, in which case the school board appoints the members. They are funded through a special property tax.

Special District Public Libraries: These libraries are created by special acts of the state legislature. Their boards of trustees may be appointed, elected, or may serve in an *ex officio* capacity depending on the individual legislation. Funding is generally provided through a special tax on property.

School library Systems: These systems may be created by a board of cooperative educational services, or by a school district serving a city whose population exceeds 125,000, or by a combination of the two, after approval by the Commissioner of Education. They are governed by the board of the creating entity, *ex officio*, or by a board agreed upon under a plan submitted to the commissioner in the case of systems serving a combination of areas. They are funded through state grants and local appropriations.

Cooperative Library Systems: These systems may be formed by a joint meeting of the trustees of two or more existing libraries after approval by the Commissioner of Education. They are governed by a board of 5 to 25 trustees appointed by the trustees of all member libraries. Funding is provided for by member libraries, and state grants. The New York State Library defines four types of systems as follows:

Consolidated Systems: Chartered by the Board of Regents, State University of New York, as a single entity under a board of trustees.

Federated Systems: Created by action of the county governing bodies involved while the member libraries retain their own charters (from the Board of Regents, State University of New York).

Cooperative Systems: Created by agreement of the boards of chartered (from the Board of Regents, State University of New York) member libraries, which retain their autonomy.

Co-Federated Systems: Formed through confederation of systems of different types.

Reference and Research Library Resources Systems: These systems are formed in a similar manner as Cooperative Library Systems, but may include academic, school and special libraries in their membership. They are governed by a board of trustees consisting of at least one member appointed by each participating library. They are funded through member contributions and state grants.

Definition

The New York code defines a public library as "a library, other than professional, technical or public school library, established for free public purposes by official action of a municipality or district or the legislature, where the whole interests belong to the public."

NORTH CAROLINA

Public libraries in North Carolina are authorized under chapter 153A article 14 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The following types of libraries may be found in the state:

County or Municipal Libraries: These libraries may be established by resolution of a county or city governing body. They may be governed directly by the sponsoring government, or by a board of up to 12 trustees appointed by the sponsoring entity. The are financed through appropriations of the creating government.

Regional Libraries: These libraries may be established by two or more counties under provisions contained in the North Carolina Administrative Code. They are governed by boards of trustees appointed by the participating governments. Financing is provided through appropriations of member governments.

In addition, counties and/or municipalities may operate libraries under joint contracts.

Some libraries in North Carolina have been established by special legislation.

NORTH DAKOTA

Public libraries in North Dakota are authorized under the North Dakota Century Code chapters 54-24.3, and 40-38. The following types of libraries may be established:

Municipal or County Libraries: These libraries may be established by petition of voters to a municipality or county and approval at referendum. They are governed by a board of five directors appointed by the sponsoring government. They are funded through a special property tax.

Regional and Joint Libraries: These libraries may be created by two or more counties and/or cities upon voter approval. They are governed by a board of 5 to 11 members appointed equally by each participating government. Funding is derived through special property taxes levied by member governments.

Multi-type Library Authorities: These libraries may be created by the statewide library planning committee to provide for the coordination of library services and resources on a regional basis. They are governed by a board consisting of one member appointed by each participating library. Funding is obtained through service charges.

Book Committees: Any city whose population is less than 2,500 may purchase books and periodicals for loan to another local library (city, county, or school) for use by its residents (this law was intended to allow small municipalities which could not afford to build their own facilities to render library service to their citizens). The books and periodicals remain the property of the city. A book committee of three members is appointed by the city to oversee the selection of books. Funding is provided through appropriations.

In addition, several contractual arrangements are authorized between municipalities, counties, school districts, and the state library for the provision of library services.

Definitions

The North Dakota Code defines a public library as "a library that is supported with funds derived from taxation

and which maintains a balanced collection of materials to serve the lifelong information, reading, and recreational needs of the general population."

OHIO

Public libraries in Ohio are authorized by chapter 3375 of the Ohio Revised Code Annotated. The following types of libraries may be established in Ohio:

Municipal Free Public Libraries: These libraries may be established by a municipal corporation. They are governed by a board of six trustees appointed by the mayor. No funding mechanism is specified in the statute, but affiliation would imply that monies are derived through municipal appropriations.

Township Libraries: These libraries were established prior to September 4, 1947 by a vote of the electors. They are governed by a three member board of trustees appointed by the township board. They are funded through a special property tax levied by the township.

County Free Public Libraries: These libraries are established by a county upon the receipt of a gift or bequest. They are governed by a six member board of trustees appointed by the court of common pleas. Funding is provided through a county property tax levy.

Association Libraries: These libraries may be established as nonprofit corporations to provide public library service. The method of governance and funding is provided for in their articles of incorporation.

School District Public Libraries: These libraries were established by the board of education of a school district prior to September 4, 1947. They are governed by a board of seven trustees appointed by the board of education. Funding is provided through a special property tax levy of the school district.

Municipal Library Districts: These districts were created before June 20, 1978 by resolution of a municipality whose population exceeded 25,000, or whose population was less than 25,000 and which had a minimum of $100,000 available from a bequest. They are governed by a six member board of trustees appointed by the mayor. No funding mechanism is specified in the statutes, but it can be assumed that funds are derived through municipal appropriations and taxation.

County Library Districts: These districts may be formed by resolution of the county governing body on its own initiative, or upon receipt of a petition and after voter approval; or by county resolution and approval of the appropriate taxing districts. They are governed by a board of seven trustees with three appointed by the judges of the court of common pleas, and four appointed by the county governing body. Funding is derived through a special property tax levied by the county.

Regional Library Districts: These districts may be created by joint resolution of two or more counties. They are governed by a seven member board of trustees, initially appointed by a joint meeting of the county commissioners, and thereafter appointed on a rotating basis by member counties. Funding is provided through a special property tax levied by member counties.

Area Library Service Organizations: These libraries may be formed by agreement between the boards of trustees of public libraries in two or more counties whose combined population is at least 250,000, and after approval by the state library board. They are governed by a board of seven to 15 trustees appointed by the participating libraries. Funding is provided through state, federal, and local appropriations.

Metropolitan Library Systems: These systems may be formed by agreement among the boards of trustees of four or more libraries in a metropolitan area whose population is at least 250,000, and upon approval by the state library board. They are governed by a board of 7 to 15 trustees appointed by member libraries. Funding is derived through state, federal and local appropriations.

The Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Association: This association was incorporated in 1929 by Martha Kinney Cooper (the wife of the governor at the time), and various educational organizations. It specializes in the works of

Ohioans. It is governed by a board of trustees with four members appointed by the governor, and the rest selected as specified in its corporate charter. Funding is derived from state appropriations (70 percent) and private contributions. This association is not reported in the FSCS as a public library.

OKLAHOMA

Public libraries in Oklahoma are authorized under the Oklahoma Statutes 11 § 31-101, and title 65, and article X sec. 10A of the state constitution. The following types of libraries may be formed in Oklahoma:

Municipal Libraries: These libraries may be created by a municipal governing body. They may be governed by a board of five directors appointed by the municipal governing body. Funding is provided by the municipality.

County Libraries: These libraries may be created by resolution of a county commission. They are governed by the county commission and funded through a special property tax.

Metropolitan Library Commissions: These commissions may be created in any county whose population is 100,000 or more. They are governed by an 11 or 19 member board of commissioners appointed by the governing body of the county seat, the county, and in some cases, other cities within the county. Eleven member boards also include the mayor of the county seat and the chairperson of the board of county commissioners serving *ex officio*. Funding is provided through local appropriations, fees and charges and, if approved by the voters, a special property tax.

City-County Library Commissions: These commissions are established by joint contract between a city and county. They are governed by an 11 member board, 6 of whom are appointed by the city, three of whom are appointed by the county, and the mayor and county chairperson, *ex officio*. Funding is provided through local appropriations, fees and charges and, if approved by the voters, a special property tax.

Rural (Single-County) Library Systems: These systems may be created in counties with populations below 100,000 by resolution of the board of county commissioners, joint resolutions of all cities and towns in the county whose population exceeds 2,000, by resolution of the county seat town in the absence of any cities or towns whose populations exceed 2,000 or by petition of voters. Final approval must be granted by the state library board. They are governed by a board consisting of at least five members with one member appointed by the county commission from each county commissioner district, one appointed by the county seat town, and one appointed by the largest municipality that is not the county seat. Funding is provided through local appropriations, fees and charges and if approved by the voters, a special property tax.

Public (Multi-County) Library Systems: These systems may be created by the boards of commissioners of two or more counties on their own initiative, or after receipt of a petition. Formation must be approved by all cities within the service area with a population of 2,000 or more or by the county seat town if no such city exists. Final approval must be granted by the state library board. These systems are governed by a board consisting of at least five members with one appointed by each county, one appointed by each city with a population over 2,000 (or by the county seat town if no such city exists in the county) and one appointed by each city with a population of at least 1,000 which is at least 30 miles from the nearest town having a board member. Funding is provided through local appropriations, fees and charges and, if approved by the voters, a special property tax.

In addition, cities and counties may contract with each other for library services.

Definition

The Oklahoma statutes define a public library as "a library or library system that is freely open to all persons under identical conditions, and which is supported in whole or in part by public funds."

OREGON

Public libraries in Oregon are authorized under the Oregon Revised Statutes chapter 357. The following types of libraries may be created:

School District and Community College District Public Libraries: These libraries may be created to serve the community by a school district or community college district, under the same provisions as county and municipal libraries. They are governed by a board of five, seven or more members appointed by, and at the discretion of, the sponsoring district. Financing is provided through a special property tax and local contributions.

Library Districts: These libraries may be formed by petition of voters to one or more counties and approval at referendum. They are governed by a five member elected board. Financing is provided through a special property tax.

County, Municipal and Library Service District Public Libraries: These libraries may be established by the governing body of a county, municipality on its own initiative, or upon petition of the voters. Approval at referendum is required in all cases. The libraries are governed by a board of five to 15 members appointed by the sponsoring government. They are financed through a special property tax, and local contributions. Library Service Districts are governed by the county governing body, *ex officio*. They may be used as a vehicle to provide library services to specific areas of a county.

In addition counties, municipalities, and school districts may contract with each other for library services. These services may be administered by one of the contracting parties, or by a joint board created under the interlocal cooperation act. Presumably, this is how the various "library systems" have been formed.

Definition

The Oregon statutes define a public library as "a public agency responsible for providing and making accessible to all residents of a local government unit library and information services suitable to persons of all ages."

PENNSYLVANIA

Public libraries in Pennsylvania are authorized under title 24 of the Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated. The following types of libraries may be found in the state:

Local Public Libraries: These libraries may be formed by any municipality, township, or school district, or by a deed, gift or testamentary provision, or as non-profit corporations. All local libraries are governed by a board of directors, unless the library is located in a home rule municipality. In the latter case governance is specified in the home rule charter. Libraries organized after 1961 are governed by a five to seven member board if they are supported by one government, or by a board of up to nine members if they are supported by multiple municipalities. All members are appointed by the sponsoring government(s). Libraries established prior to 1961 are governed by a board whose composition is specified in the creating instrument, but must consist of at least two members appointed by each "government" served. Funding may be provided by a voter-approved property tax, fees and charges, and a combination of federal, state and local appropriations.

County Libraries: These libraries are organized under the same provisions as local public libraries to serve the residents of an entire county. Their primary source of local funding comes from the county government, but municipalities within the county may provide additional support. Some of these libraries are organized as Federated Public Library Systems which are authorized in state regulations.

Municipal Authorities: Municipal authorities may provide library services. They are created by ordinance of a county, municipality, township, or combination of the above. They are governed by a board appointed by the creating government(s) and funded through user fees and charges, and local contributions.

District Library Centers: These centers are created by the state librarian with the approval of the advisory council on library development to provide for resource sharing, and, in some instances, direct library service. They are governed by a board of up to nine members, 30 percent of whom must be librarians of participating libraries, and 30 percent of whom must be trustees of participating libraries. They are funded through state grants and local contributions.

In addition local governments may enter into joint contracts for the provision of library services.

RHODE ISLAND

Public libraries in Rhode Island are authorized under the General Laws of Rhode Island 29-4-1 and 7-6-1. The following types of libraries may be formed:

City Libraries: These libraries may be formed by resolution of the city council. They are governed by a board of three to seven trustees appointed by the city council. Funding is provided through local contributions.

Town Libraries: These libraries may be formed by a vote of the electors at an annual town meeting. They are governed by a board of three to seven trustees appointed by the town council. Funding is provided through a voter approved property tax.

Nonprofit Libraries: Public libraries in Rhode Island may be organized as nonprofit corporations. They are governed by a board of trustees, the composition of which is specified in their articles of incorporation. They may receive both private and public funding.

Library Councils: These councils are created by the governing bodies of public libraries in cities and towns having more than one such library. (A municipality may have more than one separate library due to libraries donated through wills, gifts, and bequests. Each library may have its own separate board of trustees.) Councils are made up of representatives from each participating library board of trustees. These councils do not directly provide library services, but they do have the power to determine the respective portions of state aid to be paid to each library in the municipality, and they may also promote inter-library cooperation.

Interrelated Library Systems: These systems are created by the state department of library services to coordinate library services throughout the state. They are administered through a contract with the state and one public library designated by the state in each of five regions. These systems are funded through state aid.

In addition cities and towns are free to contract with each other for library services.

Definition

The Rhode Island statutes define a public library as "a library in a city or town that has been designated by the city or town council or town financial meeting as a library to provide library services to all individuals residing in the city or town."

SOUTH CAROLINA

Public libraries in South Carolina are authorized under South Carolina Code Annotated 4-9-35. The following types of libraries may be established:

County Library Systems: These systems may be established by ordinance of the county governing body. They are governed by a board of seven to 11 members appointed by the county council. They are funded through county appropriations, special property tax levies, and state and federal aid.

Regional Libraries: These libraries may be created by contract between two or more county library systems. The systems are governed and funded as provided for in the contract.

Note: Several special acts governing libraries have been passed in South Carolina. It would appear that all of these acts were superseded by the 1978 law currently on the books. (This law also repealed provisions relating to municipal, township, and school district libraries.) The South Carolina library directory lists one library (The Chapin Memorial Library in Myrtle Beach) as being "Not a true branch of the county system; really a loose affiliate." It is possible that this particular library operates under special legislation, although no citations could be found. This public library is reported in the FSCS census with a legal basis code of "municipal."

SOUTH DAKOTA

Public libraries in South Dakota are authorized under South Dakota Codified Laws Annotated 14-2-1 et. seq. The following types of libraries may be formed:

County, Municipal and Township Libraries: These libraries may be created by a resolution of a

county, municipality or township, or by petition of voters and voter approval. They are governed by a board of six trustees, with five appointed by the sponsoring government, and an additional member of the governing body of the sponsoring government serving *ex officio*. They are funded through appropriations by the sponsoring government which may include property taxes.

Contract Libraries: These libraries are established by contract between a local government already operating a library and another local government(s) without library service. They are governed by boards of trustees consisting of the original board, and additional members appointed by the contracting government(s). They are funded through appropriations of the participating governments.

Joint Public Libraries: These libraries (sometimes known as "Regional Libraries") may be formed by two or more local governments through an intergovernmental agreement. They are governed by boards of trustees appointed by the sponsoring governments in proportion to the amount of funding provided. They are funded by appropriations of the local governments.

In addition school districts may contract for library services with joint or contract libraries. In the event that the school board contributes 20 percent or more of the total funding, it may appoint members to the board of trustees.

Definition

The South Dakota code defines a public library as "any library that serves free of charge all residents of a chartered governmental unit, county, municipality, township, or a combination of any of the above, and receives its financial support in whole or in part from public funds."

TENNESSEE

Public libraries in Tennessee are authorized under title 10 of the Tennessee Code Annotated. The following types of libraries can be found in Tennessee:

County and Municipal Libraries: These libraries may be created by the governing body of a county or municipality. They are governed by a seven member board of trustees appointed by the sponsoring government. Funding is provided through a special property tax levy and local appropriations.

Joint City-County Libraries: These libraries are created by joint contract between a county and one or more municipalities within the county. They are administered by a seven member board of trustees appointed by the county and municipality(ies) in proportion to population. They are funded through special property tax levies, and county and municipal appropriations.

Regional Libraries: These libraries may be created by designation by the state library and archives management board and joint contract between two or more counties and/or municipalities. They are governed by a board of trustees appointed by member governments as specified in the contract. Funding is provided through state grants, and county and municipal appropriations.

TEXAS

Public libraries in Texas are authorized under chapter 21 of the Education code, chapters 323, 281 and 315 of the Local Government code, and chapters 441 and 791 of the Government code as well as, various special acts. The following types of libraries may be formed in Texas:

Municipal Libraries: Type A general law municipalities may establish a library by action of the municipal governing body. These libraries are governed and funded by the municipal governing body. Although there is no specific statutory provision, it appears that "home rule" municipalities may establish libraries in a similar manner.

County Libraries: These libraries may be established by the county governing body on its own initiative, or upon petition of a majority of voters of the affected part of the county. They are administered by a librarian appointed by the county. Funding is obtained through county appropriations.

Joint Libraries: Two or more counties may establish a joint library for the use of their residents in the same manner as a county library is established.

Funding is provided by county appropriations of the participating counties.

School-County Libraries: These libraries may be established by contract between a county (in which assessed valuation exceeds $30 million) and a school district which encompasses the entire county. They are governed by a board of five trustees appointed by the county. They are funded under the terms of the contract by the participating local governments.

Civic Center Authority Libraries: These libraries may be created and operated by civic center authorities. They are governed by the board of directors of the authority, *ex officio*, and funded through fees and charges collected by the authority.

Library Systems: Two types of library systems may be formed in Texas: Regional Library Systems, and Major Resource Systems.

Regional Library Systems: Formed by election of at least two-thirds of the member libraries in a major resource system. The regional systems may be administered by a nonprofit corporation whose trustees are selected by member libraries, or the contracting libraries may contract with a private business to operate the system. Funding is provided for in the establishing contract.

Major Resource Systems: Formed by agreements between participating libraries. Once a system is established, nonmember political subdivisions may join either by contract or by petition of 10 percent of the registered voters and approval at referendum. They are governed by an advisory board of six members who are elected by a committee made up of one representative appointed by each member library. Funding is provided for through state and local appropriations.

Libraries may also be established by two or more political subdivisions under the Interlocal Cooperation Act.

Definition

The Texas code defines a public library as "a library that is operated by a single public agency or board, that is freely open to all persons under identical conditions, and that receives its financial support in whole or part from public funds."

UTAH

Public libraries in Utah are authorized by title 9, chapter 7 of the Utah Code Annotated. The following types of libraries may be found in Utah:

City Libraries: These libraries may be created by the city governing body. They are governed by a five to nine member board of directors appointed by the city governing body, and financed through a special property tax levied by the city.

County Libraries: These libraries may be established by the county governing body. They are governed by a board of five directors and financed through a county property tax levy.

Contract Libraries: Counties, cities, school districts and other political subdivisions may contract for library services. Governance and funding are provided for in the contract.

VERMONT

Public libraries in Vermont are authorized under title 22 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated and section 25.000 of the Code of Vermont Rules. The following types of libraries may be formed in Vermont:

Municipal Libraries: These libraries may be established by the governing body of a city or village, or town. They are governed by a board of at least five trustees, who may be either elected by the voters or appointed by the governing body of the municipality. Funding is derived from municipal appropriations.

Library Corporations: These libraries are established as a corporation by incorporators named in a will or bequest. They are governed by a self-perpetuating board of trustees. Funding is derived

from the original gift, and from municipal and state appropriations.

Community Libraries: These libraries are established by an agreement between a municipality and a school district. They are governed by a board of trustees, no more than half of whom may come from the school sector. Funding is provided as specified in the agreement.

Definition

The Vermont code defines a public library as "any library established and maintained by a municipality or by a private association, corporation or group to provide basic library services free of charge to all residents of a municipality or a community and which receives its annual financial support in whole or in part from public funds."

VIRGINIA

Public libraries in Virginia are authorized under title 42.1 of the code of Virginia Annotated and through individual city charters. The following types of libraries are authorized in the state:

County, City, and Town Libraries: These libraries may be established by the governing body of a county, city or town. They may be governed directly by the local government, or by a board of at least five trustees appointed by the local government. Financing may be provided either through a special property tax levy, or through the general fund of the government.

Regional Library Systems: These systems may be formed by contract between two or more cities and/or counties, after approval by the state library board. They are administered by boards appointed by the member governments. Financing is provided through contributions by the member governments in accordance with the contract.

Local governments may also enter into contracts with each other, or with private organizations for the provision of free public library services.

A special act authorizing a cooperative library system for Henrico and Chesterfield Counties, and the city of Richmond is mentioned in the code, but this arrangement is apparently no longer in effect. These three jurisdictions each have a public library that is reported in the FSCS census with the legal basis codes of "county" for Chesterfield and Henrico and "municipal" for Richmond.

WASHINGTON

Public libraries in Washington State are authorized under title 27, chapter 12 of the Revised Code of Washington. The following types of libraries may be established in the state:

County and Municipal Libraries: These libraries may be established either by direct resolution of the governing body of a city or county or by petition of voters and approval at referendum. They are governed by a board of five trustees appointed by the Mayor in the case of a municipality, or the County Commission in the case of a county. They are financed through tax levies and appropriations of the sponsoring government.

Rural Library Districts: These districts are established by petition of voters to the county, and approval at referendum. They are governed by a board of five trustees appointed by the county commission. Financing is provided through a special property tax levied by the district.

Rural Partial County Library Districts: These districts which serve only portions of the unincorporated area of a single county may be created by petition and referendum. They are governed by a board of five or seven trustees appointed by the county. Financing is provided through a special property tax levied by the district.

Intercounty Rural Library Districts: These districts may be established in one of two ways: 1) By adoption of identical resolutions of two or more counties, or by petition of voters to the counties, and approval at referendum; or 2) By majority vote of the county commissioners of two or more counties at a joint meeting. They are governed by a board of five or seven trustees appointed jointly by the county commissions. Financing is provided through a special property tax levied by the district.

Island Library District: These districts may be established in San Juan County by petition of voters and approval at referendum. They are governed by a board of five trustees appointed by the county commission. Financing is provided through a special property tax levied by the district.

Regional Library Districts: These districts are formed by joint action of two or more counties and/or municipalities. They are governed by a board of five or seven trustees appointed by joint action of the member governments. Financing is provided through proportionate contributions by member governments.

In addition, a county or municipality may contract with an established public library for library service.

Washington law also authorizes "Library Capital Facility Areas" to finance library construction.

WEST VIRGINIA

Public libraries in West Virginia are authorized by title 10 of the West Virginia Code. The following types of libraries may be established in West Virginia:

City and County Libraries: These libraries may be established by resolution of the governing body of a city or county. They are governed by a board of five trustees appointed by the sponsoring government. Financing may be provided through appropriations from the general fund, or through a special property tax levy.

Regional Libraries: These libraries may be established by contract between two or more counties. They are governed by a board of five to ten directors appointed by the member counties. They are financed through proportionate contributions by each county as specified in the contract.

Joint (Contract) Libraries: These libraries may be established by contract between two or more counties, municipalities, and\or school boards. They are governed by a board of five trustees appointed by the sponsoring governments. Financing is derived through local appropriations.

Association Libraries: These libraries are established through a will, gift or bequest. They are governed by a board of trustees specified by the individual making the gift. Financing is provided for by the individual making the gift.

Special Act Libraries: Libraries in West Virginia may also be created by special acts of the state legislature, or by ordinance of counties and cities in their individual charters. Methods for governance and financing are set out in each individual act.

WISCONSIN

Public libraries in Wisconsin are authorized under chapter 43 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The following types of libraries may be established:

Municipal Libraries: These libraries may be established by a city, village, town, school district (which operated a library prior to December 17, 1971), tribal government, or tribal association. They are governed by a board of trustees composed of five, seven or nine members depending upon the type of establishing government. Members are appointed by the establishing government. The composition of the board for the city of Milwaukee is governed by a special act. Funding is derived through a special property tax or municipal appropriations.

County Library Services: These libraries may be formed by the county governing body to provide library services to areas of the county which do not presently receive such services, and supplement service to areas presently receiving services. They are governed by a board of seven trustees appointed by the county governing body, which must include representatives of existing library boards if the county is supplementing services. Funding is provided through a special county property tax levy or county and municipal appropriations.

Joint Libraries: Any two or more contiguous municipalities, or a county and one or more municipalities located in the county, may form this type of library under a joint agreement. They are governed by a board of trustees consisting of seven to eleven members appointed by the participating governments. Funding is provided through a special

tax levy by or appropriations from the participating governments.

Consolidated County Libraries: These libraries are formed by the county governing body to provide library service. They are governed by a seven or nine member board appointed by the county. Funding is provided through a special property tax or county appropriations.

Federated Public Library Systems: These systems may be formed by one or more counties after approval by the state division of library services. They are governed by a board of seven members for single county systems and a board of 15 to 20 members for multiple county systems. In single county systems members are appointed by the county governing body, at least three of whom must be current members of a municipal library board within the county. In multi-county systems all members are appointed jointly by member counties in proportion to population. Funding is provided by state aid and county appropriations.

Consolidated Public Library Systems: These systems may be formed by a county after state approval. They are governed by a board of seven or nine members appointed by the county. They are funded by county appropriations and state aid. No systems of this type were reported in operation in 1995.

WYOMING

Public libraries in Wyoming are authorized by title 17, chapter 7 and title 18, chapter 7 of the Wyoming Statutes. The following types of libraries may be established in Wyoming:

County Libraries: These libraries may be formed by the county governing body. They are administered by a board of three or five trustees appointed by the county. Funding is provided through a special property tax.

Association Libraries: These libraries may be formed as nonprofit corporations. They are governed by a board of trustees as specified in their corporate charters. Funding is provided through a gift or bequest.

Federations of Libraries: These libraries may be established by contract between two or more counties to provide cooperative library services. They are governed and funded as specified in the contract.

Rock Springs City Library: This library is administered as a branch of the Sweetwater County library. It is jointly governed by the county board of library trustees and a board of trustees appointed by the city. Expenses are shared by the city and county.

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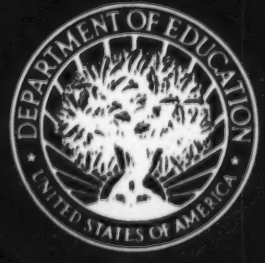

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